



# THE NOAA FORECAST

From the sun to the sea and everywhere in between  
News from NOAA's Office of Communications

## NOAA Launches FishWatch to Inform Consumers Seafood Choices

With the launch of [FishWatch](http://www.fishwatch.noaa.gov) ([www.fishwatch.noaa.gov](http://www.fishwatch.noaa.gov)), consumers now have a new tool to help inform their seafood buying and eating decisions.

The site, which is currently open for public comment, offers detailed information on many of the most popular American fish including many species of cod, grouper, salmon and tuna with more species to be added in the future.

Bill Hogarth, Director of the NOAA Fisheries Service said, "This guide brings accurate fish information avail-

able to your seafood market, and it allows consumers to make informed decisions about purchasing seafood."

The Web site includes details on population strength and status, as well as consumer information, such as on fat content and vitamins. FishWatch also provides eco-nomic information, such as where seafood comes from and how much money it brings to the economy.

FishWatch is a deliverable from the President's Commission on Ocean Policy which recommended providing better information to



## NOAA Releases Update of Nutrient Pollution in Estuaries

On July 31, NOAA announced the release of a report—*Effects of Nutrient Enrichment in the Nation's Estuaries: A Decade of Change, National Estuarine Eutrophication Assessment Update*—the Nation's most comprehensive assessment of nutrient pollution (eutrophication) in U.S. estuaries to date.

Scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), and EcoCheck (a NOAA-UMCES partnership), produced the report, which updates NOAA's 1999 *National Estuarine Eutrophication Assessment*.

The study found clear links between upstream activities and the health of coastal ecosystems. Two-thirds of the 99 U.S. estuaries assessed in the study were found to be moderately to highly impacted by human-related activities.

## Above Average Hurricane Season Still Expected

NOAA forecasters revised their seasonal forecast for the Atlantic hurricane season and warned that they still expect an above-average year.

Forecasters predict 7-9 hurricanes to develop, down from a forecast of 7-10 in May. Six hurricanes develop during a normal year.

Stay tuned to [noaa.gov](http://noaa.gov) for updates as storms develop.



## From the Helm Admiral Lautenbacher

As proud as I am of the impact NOAA and our national leaders have on environmental policies, I know that most successful solutions to resource management issues need to be locally based, or at least rooted in local knowledge and experience.

Many of our national issues mirror what is facing local entities; issues like: climate change, the need for smart growth, water quality, coastal hazards, and others.

To complement this, NOAA is implementing a regional framework to its business practices. As we have seen, many states are already partnering on a regional basis and we see a great deal of value to having NOAA operate this way such as improving product delivery.

Regional collaboration will help improve our internal processes and coordination, as well as relationships with our partners. We want to ensure that our stakeholders know about the many products and services that NOAA provides and that they are accessible and easy to use.

At the heart of this effort is improved communications and we look forward to working cooperatively with you as we move forward.

**Comments? Suggestions? Want to be added to or removed from our list?**

Email us at:  
[External.Affairs@noaa.gov](mailto:External.Affairs@noaa.gov)

## NOAA on the Hill

As usual, the final week before summer adjournment was a busy week for NOAA on Capitol Hill.

On July 31st, Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, testified before the House Natural Resources Committee at a hearing on actions in the Klamath River Basin and how various policy decisions are made. Hogarth reiterated the need to bring stakeholders together to help solve the problems in the Klamath.

The next day, Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez testified at a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing entitled, "Oversight of the U.S. Commerce Department." The Secretary fielded a large number of questions on a variety of topics such as NOAA fisheries, ocean policy, environmental satellite and climate change issues.

Finally, on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, NOAA Fisheries Service Northwest Pacific Region Director Bob Lohn testified before a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on [HR 1769](#), the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act. Lohn testified that NOAA supported the idea that some sea lions may need to be removed to protect certain stocks and stated the agency's commitment to working with partners to find an acceptable solution.

Complete testimony can be found at NOAA's [Office of Legislative Affairs website](#).

## Postcards from the Field



## NOAA Announces First 2007 Grant Recipient for Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System

The University of Hawaii School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology has been awarded \$1.7 million from the NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing Program (IOOS) to develop the Hawaii-Pacific Ocean Observing and Information System. The inaugural announcement is the first in a series of 26 competitively awarded grants totaling \$17.2 million that NOAA will make as the lead federal agency of the IOOS program in FY07.

The Hawaii project will develop operational products to assist agencies charged with the management of Hawaii's coastal ocean and shore-

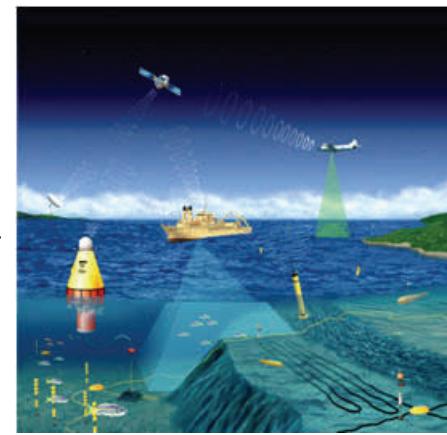
line. An early example of such a product is found at: <http://hawaiibeachsafety.org> where Hawaiians can go to find out the latest weather, current and other beach-related safety warnings and conditioning based on consolidated observations from a variety of coastal resources.

"It is important that NOAA work with our other federal and regional partners to select projects that rep-

resent the best regional ideas and capabilities needed to fully develop the [U.S.IOOS](#)," said NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher. "I believe we have a sound process in place that will serve us well as we continue to build this national asset."

NOAA received 40 proposals seeking more than \$32 million in single year funding. A peer review panel comprised of professionals with expertise in ocean observation, applications and data evaluated and ranked the proposals. Seven federal agencies, a state agency representative and Ocean.US participated in the

peer review.



Activities under the awards will support NOAA's efforts to develop IOOS which will expand and improve the ability to collect, deliver, and use information from coastal waters, Great Lakes, and the ocean by providing information in the right format at the right time to scientists, managers, businesses, governments, and the public.

### Upcoming Events August

**20** - Coral Reef Task Force Fall Meeting—American Samoa

**24-25**—Gulf of Mexico Alliance Meeting / Southern Governor's Association Meeting - Biloxi, MS

**September**  
**2-6** - American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting - San Francisco, CA

A group of local students take their turn at the helm of the NOAA ship THOMAS JEFFERSON as it was docked recently in Alexandria, VA. As part of NOAA's 200th anniversary, the ship was open to the public and the crew showcased the ship's key mission of mapping and charting.

### Heading to the Beach? Get Sea Grant's Beachcomber Companion

A fun twist on a field guide designed for beachcombers of all ages, each set features 50 marine invertebrates common to the Atlantic Coast (nearly all can be found from Florida to Maine). Cards help beachcombers identify a specimen by size, shape, features, and coloration; where to look for it; and fun and interesting facts (what it eats and what eats it, how it hides, how it defends itself). Visit the companion website at:

[www.beachcomberscompanion.net](http://www.beachcomberscompanion.net)